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Title: Need to make the Anganwadi workers and helpers as permanent employees and also enhance their honorarium.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I request the Government to appoint Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers as permanent employees and enhance the amount of their honorarium. At present Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers are considered as honorary workers. Recently the Government has enhanced the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers to Rs.3000 from Rs.1500 per month and for Anganwadi Helpers and Workers of Mini-AWCs to Rs.1500 from Rs.750 per month. However, this is a meagre amount compared to the services rendered by them.

Anganwadi workers and Anganwad, helpers are the backbone of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. In addition to their duty of organize non-formal pre-Âschool activities, Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers are also assisting the health workers in ensuring the better health of children and mothers. It is estimated that as many as 20 crore children in the country are cared by Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers.